

**FAX****Date:** Monday, January 28, 2002**Pages including cover sheet:** 2

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**NOTE:**

Microsoft Settlement.

P.O. Box 150533

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January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft has been dealing with a hostile government for over three years now; it is time to put an end to the lawsuit. I am writing today to encourage the Department of Justice to accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement.

The critics are wrong when they claim that Microsoft is getting away with lenient terms. The settlement was arrived at after extensive negotiations under a court-appointed mediator. Microsoft has agreed to terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit, simply for the chance to put the issue behind it.

Microsoft has given up the right to charge different computer makers different prices, thus losing leverage useful in getting its software promoted. It has also agreed to allow computer makers and users to remove access to Windows technologies, features, and bundled applications, in favor of competing software. Microsoft has even committed to revealing internal information about Windows to rivals, allowing them to write competing software that works better with Windows.

It is time that the government stops harassing Microsoft and allows free enterprise to re-emerge. The terms of the settlement are fair and the government needs to accept it. Please exercise your influence and authority to help make that happen.

Sincerely,

  
James Ferraro